Illegal coal mines in Bihar

*370. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA :
SHRI V. NARAYANA SAMY :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that illegal mining of coal from the open cast and underground coal mines abandoned by CCL is going unabated in Bihar;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the illegally obtained coal is smuggled outside the State of Bihar resulting in losses to the Central and State Governments; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to prevent illegal mining and smuggling of coal from the coal mines of Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) have denied that unabated illegal mining was going on in their leasehold areas. According to them, some cases of illegal mining/theft/pilferage of coal have been noticed and these have been reported to the local police authorities.

Regular and continuous efforts are being made by the security division of CCL in coordination with local police authorities for prevention and elimination of such practices.

Allocation of imported edible oil

*371. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any demand is placed by the State Governments to the Central Government for allocation of imported edible oil;

(b) if so, what is the monthly demand and allocation made; state-wise for the year 1991-92; and

(c) whether Government are considering import of palmolein oil during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) No monthly demand for allocation of imported edible oils is being received from States/UTs from oil year (Nov. to Oct.) 1991-92 onwards. However, the States/UTs are sending their requests for allocation at different intervals depending upon their requirements The allocation of imported edible oils made to States/UTs in the oil year (Nov. to Oct.) 91-92 is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CL XVI, Annexure No. 60].

(c) At present, there is enough edible oil available in the country for domestic consumption.

Leather Fair

@*372. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the leather fair held at Madras recently has generated any enthusiasm among the participants, both Indians and foreigners;

(b) the number of participants in the fair;

(c) the amount of foreign investment likely to be attracted in the leather industry;

(d) the number of foreign investors showing interest; and

(e) the amount of business generated by the fair ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A total of 345 companies had participated in the fair including 140 overseas companies.

@Previously Starred Question 234, transferred from 11th March, 1993.

(c) and (d) According to information collected by Council for Leather Exports, it is expected that an investment of US $ 50 million during the current year will be made by foreign investors and it is likely to go up to US $ 100 million next year. About 50 companies have shown interest for going in for joint ventures.

(e) On the basis of reports received from participants, business worth Rs. 91 crores was finalised at the fair. An additional Rs. 201 crores worth of business was under negotiation.

Recasting of ESI Scheme

*373. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Business Standard of 2nd February, 1993 captioned "Labour Ministers urge centre to recast ESI";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what are the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon together with the present status in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Labour Ministers' Conference which had met on August 13, 1992 and which inter alia was to discuss matters relating to health cover for workers took a decision to go into the operation of the ESI Scheme in an exclusive conference of State Labour Ministers to be held in Bombay. Based on the recommendations of this Conference further action would be taken.

374.[*Transferred to the 18th March,* 1993]

Export of High Grade Minerals

*375. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of high grade bauxite, iron and manganese ore being exported annually;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to stop the export of these items; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) The total quantum of high grade bauxite, iron ore and manganese ore exported during the last three years has been as under :—

(Qty. : in lakh tons)

Year	Iron ore (Fe +65%)	Bauxite (A. 1203 +54%)	Manganese ore (Mn +46%)
1990-91	122.17	—	—
1991-92	122.51	—	—
1992-93 (Apr. '92-Feb. '93) (Prov.)	87.46	0.11	—

(b) and (c) Exports of high grade bauxite, iron ore and manganese ore are regulated through canalisation/export licensing, keeping in view the surplus available after meeting the domestic requirements, conservation angle and the